



Michigan *Office of the Auditor General* **REPORT SUMMARY**

Performance Audit

Washtenaw Community College

Report Number:
032-0360-06

Released:
May 2007

Washtenaw Community College is a public, two-year institution of higher education offering academic, occupational, vocational-technical, and community education programs. The College was established in 1965, using temporary facilities in the Willow Run area of Ypsilanti Township. In 1969, the College's permanent 235-acre campus opened in Ann Arbor.

Audit Objective:

To assess the effectiveness of the College's efforts to evaluate the quality of its educational programs.

Audit Conclusion:

The College was effective in its efforts to evaluate the quality of its educational programs. However, we noted one reportable condition (Finding 1).

Reportable Condition:

The College needs to expedite its efforts to establish outcome measures and conduct program assessments for its educational programs (Finding 1).

Noteworthy Accomplishments:

The College's Custom Cars and Concepts Program opened for enrollment during fall semester 2005. The Program has enjoyed partnerships with the Big Three automakers to customize the design and performance of standard factory model

cars. These partnerships, along with the dedication of students and instructors within the Program, have led to several first place awards in major custom vehicle competitions, such as the Detroit Autorama and the Specialty Equipment Market Association's annual car show held in Las Vegas, Nevada. Additional national recognition was garnered from the television program *Rides*, aired by the Learning Channel. An entire episode in November 2005 was devoted to the Program. The episode followed eight Custom Cars and Concepts students as they transformed a 1970 Chevelle into a one-of-a-kind street rod in 90 days.

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Audit Objective:

To assess the effectiveness of the College's admissions and monitoring practices to help students successfully complete their classes and programs.

Audit Conclusion:

The College's admissions and monitoring practices were effective in helping students successfully complete their classes and programs. Our report does not include any reportable conditions related to this audit objective.

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Audit Objective:

To assess the efficiency of the College's use of educational program resources.

Audit Conclusion:

The College was efficient in its use of educational program resources. However, we noted three reportable conditions (Findings 2, 3, and 4).

Reportable Conditions:

The College did not have a formal policy addressing minimum class enrollment standards (Finding 2).

The College did not monitor repetitive course enrollments and identify and counsel students who were not making satisfactory academic progress. Also, the College had not developed a formal policy to address repetitive course enrollments and their impact on student academic progress and the College's efficient use of resources. (Finding 3)

The College had not analyzed the financial operations of its off-campus extension centers (Finding 4).

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Audit Objective:

To assess the effectiveness of the College's efforts to allocate operating and service costs to auxiliary activities and programs.

Audit Conclusion:

The College's efforts to allocate operating and service costs to auxiliary activities and programs were effective. However, we noted one reportable condition (Finding 5).

Reportable Condition:

The College had not initiated a comprehensive examination of expenditures, employee staffing levels, and revenues related to operating its on-campus child care center (Finding 5).

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Agency Response:

Our audit report contains 5 findings and 6 corresponding recommendations. The College's preliminary response indicates that it agrees with 4 of the recommendations, partially agrees with 1 recommendation (Finding 5), and disagrees with 1 recommendation (Finding 2).

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A copy of the full report can be obtained by calling 517.334.8050 or by visiting our Web site at: <http://audgen.michigan.gov>



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